

# Calendar No. 56

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 718

To provide a monthly allotment of free telephone calling time to members of the United States armed forces stationed outside the United States who are directly supporting military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2003

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

MARCH 27, 2003

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

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# A BILL

To provide a monthly allotment of free telephone calling time to members of the United States armed forces stationed outside the United States who are directly supporting military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Troops Phone Home  
5 Free Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2       It is the purpose of this Act to support the morale  
3 of the brave men and women of the United States armed  
4 services stationed outside the United States who are di-  
5 rectly supporting military operations in Iraq or Afghani-  
6 stan (as determined by the Secretary of Defense) by giving  
7 them the ability to place calls to their loved ones without  
8 expense to them.

9 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

10       The Congress finds the following:

11           (1) The armed services of the United States are  
12 the finest in the world.

13           (2) The members of the armed services are  
14 bravely placing their lives in danger to protect the  
15 security of the people of the United States and to  
16 advance the cause of freedom in Iraq.

17           (3) Their families and loved ones are making  
18 sacrifices at home in support of the members of the  
19 armed services abroad.

20           (4) Telephone contact with family and friends  
21 provides significant emotional and psychological sup-  
22 port to them and helps to sustain and improve mo-  
23 rale.

1 **SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

2 **BENEFIT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as possible after the date  
4 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall  
5 provide prepaid phone cards, or an equivalent tele-  
6 communications benefit which includes access to telephone  
7 service, to members of the armed forces stationed outside  
8 the United States who are directly supporting military op-  
9 erations in Iraq or Afghanistan (as determined by the Sec-  
10 retary) to enable them to make telephone calls to family  
11 and friends in the United States without cost to the mem-  
12 ber.

13 (b) MONTHLY AMOUNT.—The value of the benefit  
14 provided by subsection (a) shall not exceed \$40 per month  
15 per person.

16 (c) END OF PROGRAM.—The program established by  
17 subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 60 days  
18 after the date on which the Secretary determines that Op-  
19 eration Iraqi Freedom has ended.

20 (d) FUNDING.—

21 (1) USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.—In car-  
22 rying out this section, the Secretary shall maximize  
23 the use of existing Department of Defense tele-  
24 communications programs and capabilities, private  
25 support organizations, and programs to enhance mo-  
26 rale and welfare.

1           (2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—In addi-  
2           tion to resources described in paragraph (1) and  
3           notwithstanding any limitation on the expenditure or  
4           obligation of appropriated amounts, the Secretary  
5           may use available funds appropriated to or for the  
6           use of the Department of Defense that are not oth-  
7           erwise obligated or expended to carry out this sec-  
8           tion.

9   **SEC. 5. DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE EQUIP-**  
10                   **MENT.**

11          The Secretary of Defense shall work with tele-  
12          communications providers to facilitate the deployment of  
13          additional telephones for use in calling the United States  
14          under this Act as quickly as practicable, consistent with  
15          the availability of resources and without compromising the  
16          Department's military objectives and mission.



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